

U. S. NOTE TO AUSTRIA CALLS ANCONA ATTACK "A WANT ON SLAUGHTER"

Complete Disavowal of Acts of Submarine Commander is Demanded and Payment of Indemnity for Loss of American Lives.

"Ultimatum" is Official Washington's Term for New Note, the Harsh-est Yet Sent By This Country—Break With Austria Near.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Apparently leaving no loophole for compromise or discussion, the United States government has called upon the government of Austria-Hungary for prompt compliance with a demand for disavowal and reparation on account of the sinking of the Italian-American liner Ancona by an Austro-Hungarian submarine, and the punishment of the submarine's commander. The text of the formal diplomatic communication containing the demand was made public by the State Department yesterday.

The demand follows a statement informing Austria-Hungary that "the good relations of the two countries must rest upon a common regard for law and humanity." The note attacks the shelling and torpedoing of the liner as "inhumane," "barbarous," and a "wanton slaughter" of "helpless men, women and children."

Not in any of the diplomatic notes of this government to Germany concerning the Lusitania was such direct and menacing language used. As a consequence of this communication, which bears all the marks of being an ultimatum, the gravest danger threatens the continuance of relations between the governments of Austria-Hungary and the United States. "Ultimatum" is the term used by some officials in describing the substance of the American position. Generally in Administration circles the view appears to prevail that President Wilson and Secretary Lansing have burned all bridges behind them, and are prepared to take extreme measures to showing their resentment if the Vienna government declines to comply with the demands made. In diplomacy "demand" is about the strongest word that can be used, and it is used twice in the Ancona note.

Must Accede Within a Week. The course the United States will pursue is understood to have been determined upon. A reasonable time will be given Austria-Hungary in which to reply to the communication before further action is taken. The word "prompt" as used in the note is understood to mean that Austria-Hungary must accede to the demand of the United States within a week, at the most. If the demand is not complied with, immediate severance of diplomatic relations is regarded as certain.

The administration has been sensitive over the criticism, heard most frequently during the critical period of the Lusitania negotiations, that all the action of the government in dealing with Germany's destruction of merchant vessels, with the loss of innocent lives, was confined to writing diplomatic notes. With particular reference to this criticism, it is declared by officials that the note on the Ancona case means exactly what it says, and that the country should be prepared for a break in the relations between Washington and Vienna if the Austro-Hungarian government does not promptly accede to the demand to "disavow the sinking of the Ancona as an illegal and indefensible act, that the officer who perpetrated the deed be punished, and that reparation, by payment of an indemnity be made for the citizens of the United States who were killed or injured by the attack on the vessel."

The manner in which the American note dismisses the Austrian position that the Ancona sought to escape removes that phase of the incident from the field of discussion. A point-blank refusal to accept the Austrian view seems to be a correct construction of the American position. Judged by what is being said in a guarded way by officials here, the Austro-Hungarian government must either accept or reject what is demanded by the United States. There is no half-way point in the negotiations, according to the official view.

Although the character of the action that would be taken by this Government should Austria-Hungary decline to comply promptly with the demands made is not clearly set forth in the comments of officials, it is evident that the Government has in mind a severance of diplomatic relations. Such a course would dispose also of the incident involved in the admission yesterday to Secretary Lansing by Baron Ziwedinek, Charge d'Affaires of Austria-Hungary, of the genuineness of a letter signed with his name suggesting that the Austro-Hungarian Consulate General in New York might be able to procure "at slight expense" passports of neutral countries to enable Austrian reservists to proceed in safety from the United States to their own country. Should diplomatic relations between the two Governments be severed, Baron Ziwedinek and all the other members of the embassy staff would be dismissed from the United States. The Administration is deferring decision in the matter of the Ziwedinek letter until the Ancona case has been disposed of.

Baron Ziwedinek was furnished with a copy of the Ancona note and called at the State Department yesterday.

A New and Vigorous Policy. After listening to the views of officials high in the Administration's councils, cautiously expressed though they are, it is impossible to escape the conviction that from now on the United States Government will not follow any velvet-glove procedure in dealing with such incidents as that of the Ancona. The vigorous language of the note to Austria-Hungary is de-

TEXT OF NOTE TO AUSTRIA ON SINKING OF ANCONA

Washington, Dec. 13.—The text of Secretary of State Lansing's note to the Austro-Hungarian Government on the sinking of the Ancona follows:

The Secretary of State to Ambassador Penfield:

Reliable information obtained from American and other survivors who were passengers on the steamship Ancona shows that on Nov. 7 a submarine flying the Austro-Hungarian flag fired a solid shot toward the steamship:

That thereupon the Ancona attempted to escape, but being overhauled by the submarine she stopped; that after a brief period and before the crew and passengers were all able to take to the boats the submarine fired a number of shells at the vessel and finally torpedoed and sank her while there were yet many persons on board, and that by gunfire and foundering of the vessel a large number of persons lost their lives or were seriously injured, among whom were citizens of the United States.

The public statement of the Austro-Hungarian Admiralty has been brought to the attention of the Government of the United States and received careful consideration. This statement substantially confirms the principal declaration of the survivors, as it admits that the Ancona after being shelled was torpedoed and sunk while persons were still on board.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has been advised through a the correspondence which has passed between the United States and Germany, of the attitude of the Government of the United States as to the use of submarines in attacking vessels of commerce, and the acquiescence of Germany in that attitude, yet with full knowledge on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government of the views of the Government of the United States as expressed in no uncertain terms to the ally of Austria-Hungary, the commander of the submarine which attacked the Ancona failed to put in a place of safety the crew and passengers of the vessel, which they proposed to destroy because, it is presumed, of the impossibility of taking it into port as a prize of war.

The Government of the United States considers that the commander violated the principles of international law and of humanity by shelling and torpedoing the Ancona before the persons on

board had been put in a place of safety or even given sufficient time to leave the vessel. The conduct of the commander can only be characterized as wanton slaughter of defenceless non-combatants, since at the time when the vessel was shelled and torpedoed she was not attempting to escape, and no other reason is sufficient to excuse such an attack, not even the possibility of rescue.

The Government of the United States is forced, therefore, to conclude either that the commander of the submarine acted in violation of his instructions or that the Imperial and Royal government failed to issue instructions to the commanders of its submarines in accordance with the law of nations and the principles of humanity. The Government of the United States is unwilling to believe the latter alternative and to credit the Austro-Hungarian government with an intention to permit its submarines to destroy the lives of helpless men, women and children. It prefers to believe that the commander of the submarine committed this outrage without authority and contrary to the general or special instructions which he had received.

As the good relations of the two countries must rest upon a common regard for law and humanity, the Government of the United States cannot be expected to do otherwise than to demand that the Imperial and Royal government denounce the sinking of the Ancona as an illegal and indefensible act, that the officer who perpetrated the deed be punished and that reparation by the payment of an indemnity be made for the citizens of the United States who were killed or injured by the attack on the vessel.

The Government of the United States expects that the Austro-Hungarian government, appreciating the gravity of the case, will accede to its demand promptly, and it rests this expectation on the belief that the Austro-Hungarian government will not sanction or defend an act which is condemned by the world as inhumane and barbarous, which is abhorrent to all civilized nations and which has caused the death of innocent American citizens.

LANSING.

Greece And Allies Near Settlement

Paris, Dec. 13.—A despatch to the Havre Agency from Athens dated Sunday says:

"According to semi-official sources a definite solution of the questions pending between Greece and the entente powers has been nearly reached. Colonel Phallos of the Greek army, after an interview with General Surath, commander-in-chief of the French army in the Orient, declared that negotiations were proceeding satisfactorily."

"The entente allies" retreat is proceeding slowly but normally and in security."

Pilot Responsible For Steamer's Crash

New London, Dec. 13.—In a decision handed down today United States Inspectors of Steam Vessels Withers and Stewart find Pilot John H. Anderson, of the steamer Tennessee responsible for the collision of that craft with the three-masted schooner Samuel S. Thorp in Block Island Sound on October 9, last, which resulted in serious injury to two of the steamer's passengers and damage amounting to about \$15,000 to the steamer and \$500 to the schooner.

Anderson is summoned to appear before the inspectors on Dec. 15 to answer charges.

Bulgarians Pursue Allies; Near Greece

London, Dec. 13.—The Saloniki correspondent of Reuters Telegram Company, in a despatch dated Sunday relative to the fighting in southeastern Serbia, says:

"The evacuation of Doiran and Gjevelli was completed today and the Bulgarians are reported to be within five miles of the Greek frontier, following very slowly in the wake of the allies."

U-Boats Claim 508 Victims, Berlin Says

London, Dec. 13.—German and Austro-Hungarian submarines to date have sunk 508 ships, according to a news despatch from Berlin. The total tonnage of the vessels sunk is given as 917,819.

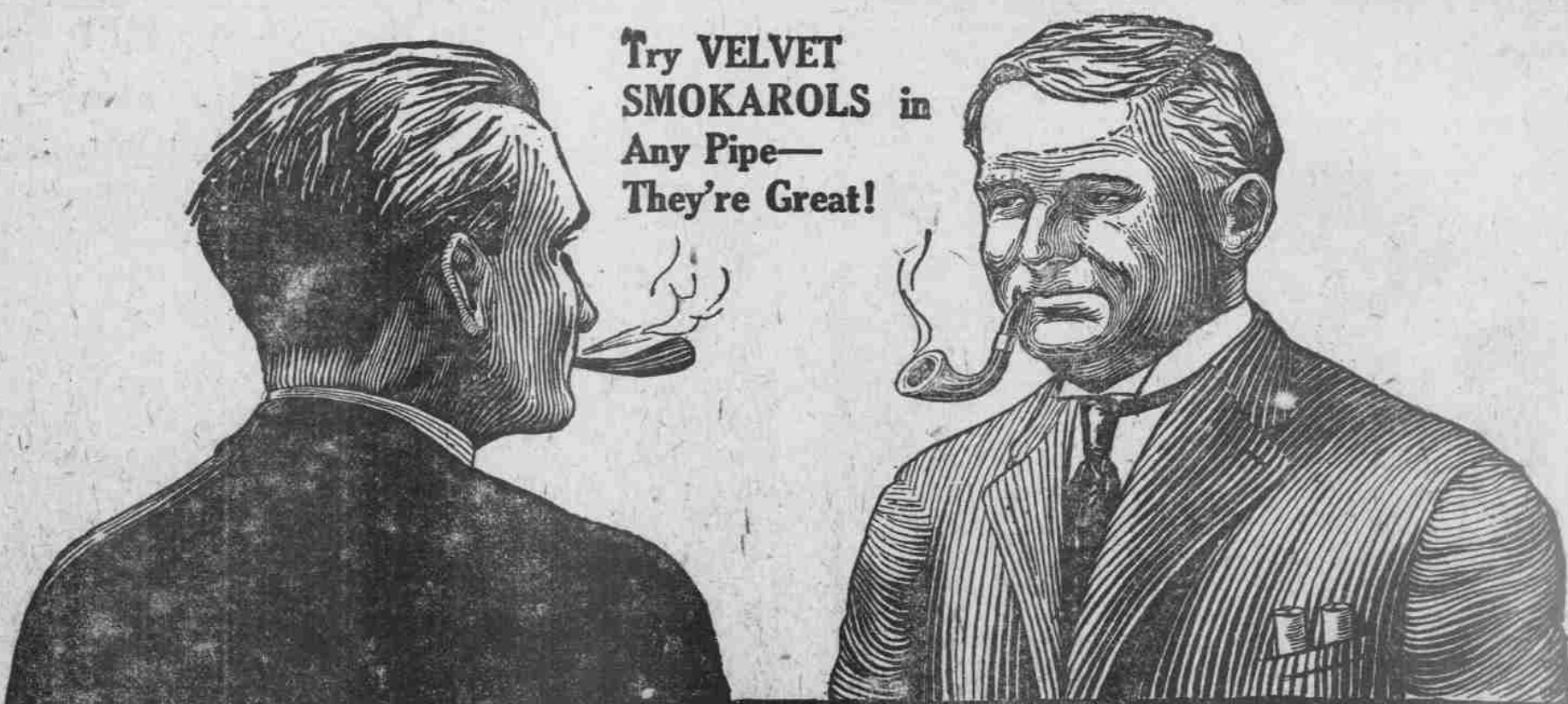
Vienna is reported to be suffering from a coal shortage.

General Miguel M. Dieguez, commander of the Carranza forces in Southern Sonora, is reported to be looting Catholic churches there, and driving out Catholics and priests.

About 16,000 persons who lost all their possessions in the fire that destroyed Hopewell, Va., the powder boom town, are being cared for by relief organization organized at Petersburg, Va.

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